NOTES FROM THE:

Financial Information Systems Program Office

by Mr Richard DeNezza

It is with great pleasure that I assume authorship of this column and provide you with my initial update on activities of the Electronic Systems Center's Financial Information Systems Program Office (ESC/FN SPO). I was appointed the SPO director late in 1997 and have been working on implementing changes to SPO operations that will result in better support to our Defense Finance and Accounting Service and Air Force customers and users. In addition, my goal is to make the most effective use of our most important resource, our people. As Lt Colonel Gill mentioned in the April issue, the SPO encompasses central design activity efforts at both the Standard Systems Group located at Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex, Alabama, and the Materiel Systems Group (MSG) component located at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. A major step in creating a seamless program office across both locations was taken in January of this year when I implemented a significant realignment of personnel and system management responsibilities. While this realignment did not relocate any direct systems related workload between the two sites, it did more effectively align similar programs and systems under my four divisions and assigned single manager oversight of those programs and systems. This month's article includes information on two major initiatives at the SSG component to migrate and transition applications to a Defense Information Infrastructure—Common Operating Environment (DII-COE).

Standard Materiel Accounting System (SMAS). SMAS is the interim migratory accounting system for the Air Force Retail Supply Management Business Area of the Defense Working Capital Fund. The Functional OPR is the DFAS-DE. In June 1999, the FN SPO and the Headquarters Standard Systems Group's Software Factory (HQ SSG/SW) in partnership with the DFAS-DE SMAS Program Office, successfully completed a major 24 month project. This effort was in direct support of a DFAS-HQ initiative to improve the effectiveness and efficiency and reduce operating costs. The objectives were to improve effectiveness by making the system Y2K compliant, improve efficiency via a major technology upgrade, which would support Client Server Architecture in an DII-COE environment, and cut operating costs by reducing computer support requirements. For Y2K purposes, software was modified to use a four-digit year in internal computations and storage, but by joint agreement, no interface for-

mats with other systems were changed. SMAS was subsequently certified Y2K compliant in December 1998. The Client part of the technology upgrade provides users Windows NT workstations supported by graphical user interfaces (GUI) with drop down menus and on-line documentation. The Server element of the new technology is a single Hewlett Packard 9000, a mid tier computer, with an ORACLE database management system and a UNIX operating system, located at the Ogden Defense MegaCenter. This will result in significant savings as previously the 12 SMAS operational databases were hosted on mainframes across seven different Defense MegaCenters (DMC). The FN SPO is currently working with the DFAS-DE SMAS Program Office on the requirements for the next major initiatives to improve effectiveness. These efforts will correct two Federal Financial Management Requirements (FFMR) deficiencies by updating the accounts receivable aging criteria, providing for automatic system produced follow-up letters, and converting the general ledger from the Air Force Chart of Accounts to the U.S Standard Chart of Accounts. Both these initiatives are projected to be implemented in the last quarter of 1999.

Centralized Disbursing System (CDS). CDS is the new name for the Integrated Paying & Collecting System (IPC) transitioned to an DII-COE environment and operating on an HP computer using Oracle and a PowerBuilder Graphical User Interface. CDS initial implementation was 12 April 1999 at the Odgen DMC with the DFAS-DE Disbursing Office, DSSN 3801. To date, the system is operating as planned with only minor problems. The DSSN 3801 represents one of 12 active USAF DSSNs using IPC. The DSSN was chosen primarily because it has no Integrated Accounts Payable System (IAPS) interface which is in development and projected for October 1999. All other DSSNs will require an IAPS interface prior to CDS migration. The CDS implementation plan calls for another DSSN to be named for merger into DSSN 3801 by October 1999, and the remaining USAF DSSNs to be migrated to CDS in the October 1999 timeframe but retaining their respective DSSN identity. The remaining DSSNs would then incrementally begin operating in the CDS 3801 environment. The end state would then be one DSSN (3801) Oracle database on a single HP at the Ogden DMC operating in the desired Centralized Disbursing environment.